

Callers Tend To Get Into a Rut

Calvin Campbell

Callers tend to get into ruts. We don't call certain "basics" or we don't call certain variations of some "basics". We stick to choreography that we are sure the dancers can do. Tag the Line is a good example. Most callers use Tag the Line from right hand two faced lines of four. Usually with the man following the lady dutifully to the end point. Very seldom do we try Tag the Line from Zero Facing Lines of Four.

There are Modules that allow the caller to test out the floor to see how well they understand Tag the Line.

Start in Zero Lines, **Pass Thru ... Tag the Line ... Face In ...** results in 1/2 Sashayed Facing Lines of Four. Do it again and the set is back to Zero Lines. There is how I write that Module

ZLZL

2 {Pass Thru ... Tag the Line ... Face In ...}

The module is called a Half Fractional Zero Module.

This Module will often fail to be danced correctly by some squares because the squares have little or no practice doing a **Tag the Line** from back to back lines of four. The couple on the right end of the line will normally do better than the couple on the left end of the line. The second time thru the fractional module is usually more difficult for some dancers than the first time through.

If enough squares fail the first loop of the module, don't do the second loop. After the first part, the lines of four are Half Sashayed, and the couples are in sequence. Getout by having everyone **Swing** their partner and **Promenade**. Then try the module again.

How many of you ever call something like Pass Thru ... Tag the Line ... Centers In ... Cast Off 3/4 from a Zero Line? If you start from a Zero Line, it's easy to resolve the set if you need to. The set is in Half Sashayed Lines of Four. The Half Sashayed Couples are in sequence with their partner. Have the couples Swing Original Partner and Face Across and you are back to a Zero Line.

ZLZL

Pass Thru ... Tag the Line ... Centers In ... Cast Off 3/4 ... Swing Original Partner and Face Across ...

If the sets succeed in dancing the module above. increase the complexity just a bit with the next Module.

ZLZL

2{Pass Thru ... Tag the Line ... Centers In ... Cast Off 3/4 ...}

To increase the complexity a little bit more try the following module.

ZLZL

2{Pass Thru ... Tag the Line ... Centers In ... Cast Off 3/4 ... Pass Thru ... Bend the Line}

Here is a nice getout Module that uses a **Cloverleaf** after a **Tag the Line** from Facing Lines of Four. Many dancers have never danced **Cloverleaf** following a Tag the Line.

ZL-Swing Partner

Pass Thru ... Tag the Line ... Cloverleaf ... Leaders UTurn Back ... Swing Partners ... Promenade Home

After the **Tag the Line** partners are behind one another and the couples are in sequence. If the **Cloverleaf** fails, a **UTurn Back** will still allow all the couples to find their partner. The dancers may not have done it right, but they will still succeed in getting back to a Static Square quickly with their partner.